

# BLACKHALL BULLETIN

September 2018

PRODUCED BY BLACKHALL ST. COLUMBA'S CHURCH FOR THE COMMUNITY

No. 153

## THE ROYAL HIGH SCHOOL HAS BEEN IN BARTON FOR 50 YEARS

In May 1968 the Royal High School moved from the famous site at Regent Road into purpose-built accommodation tucked away behind the gardens of East Barnton Avenue. The old building had become cramped, had no PE or playing fields, technical or other practical facilities. It was time to change, not only buildings but also attitudes. Some of you will also know that by 1973 the Royal High at Barnton was admitting girls. I expect that some of you reading this will be amongst those trail blazers, and we would love you to make yourself known so that we can publicise this too!

Many of you in the community will yourself have been pupils with us here in Barnton, you may have had children through the school, and I know some of you have had grandchildren through our school.

I'm writing this piece to let you know some of the ways in which we plan to mark this 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and to invite you to take part in or support some of our ventures.

### Our 3 main events are

A Sponsored Walk and Parade  
on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September

Gala Dinner Dynamic Earth Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October  
School Performance Event Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November

In September we have organised a Charity Fund Raising Sponsored Walk, including a parade, going from the Old Royal High School to the Mound precinct where we will be greeted by the Lord Provost. We will then walk from there back to Barnton along a designated route.

If you would like to help us we would be delighted to get your help - there are many ways to take part - supervising a road crossing, manning a refreshment station/ first aid post or simply walking with us as a route marshall. If you would like more details, please email

[50thAtBarnton@royalhigh.edin.sch.uk](mailto:50thAtBarnton@royalhigh.edin.sch.uk) or call the school on 336 2261. The date for this event is Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September. The pupils have chosen to raise funds for Cancer Charities.

All members of the community, former pupils, parents and staff are invited to a very special event at Dynamic Earth - our Gala Dinner which consists of a 3-course dinner, music, entertainment, wine etc and commemorative gifts. It will be attended by the Lord Provost. We are managing to do this for an all-in price of £60 – if you would like to buy tickets or gather a group of friends to take a table please email [50thAtBarnton@royalhigh.edin.sch.uk](mailto:50thAtBarnton@royalhigh.edin.sch.uk) or call the school on 336 2261. It promises to be a unique and special evening in a great venue, which of course is in sight of our first four buildings! The date for this event is Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October. All members of the community are invited to join us.



### The Royal High School, Edinburgh 50<sup>th</sup> Barnton Anniversary Gala Dinner



Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2018, 7pm to midnight



Holyrood Place



Cardinal Beaton's House



Blackfriars



High School Yards



Regent Road



Barnton Campus

Tickets cost £60 each. To order, please send a cheque, made payable to 'The Royal High School' to The Royal High School, East Barnton Avenue, Edinburgh, EH4 6JP (please include a self-addressed envelope).

For further information email: [50thAtBarnton@royalhigh.edin.sch.uk](mailto:50thAtBarnton@royalhigh.edin.sch.uk)

### The evening will include

A variety of entertainment including School Musicians and a Pipe Band  
An exhibition and presentation of 50 years at the Barnton Campus  
Guest Speakers and Raffle

Our last event is a Concert/ performance event in the school hall showcasing the music, dance and performing talent in the school rounding off our 50<sup>th</sup> celebrations.

If you would like to be present again email [50thAtBarnton@royalhigh.edin.sch.uk](mailto:50thAtBarnton@royalhigh.edin.sch.uk) or call the school on 336 2261. The date for this event is Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November.

I hope you will be able to support and take part in some of the above. Your school, which became part of this vibrant community 50 years ago, is thriving. Do come and help us celebrate.

David Simpson  
Depute Rector

# Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary RHS

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# The Need for Excellence

I don't know whether you agree with me or not, but 'Mediocrity' is fast becoming the buzzword of our times. Indeed, every imaginable excuse is now used to make it acceptable, hopefully preferred. Budget cuts, time deadlines, majority opinion, and hard-nosed practicality are outshouting and outrunning excellence.



Those forces seem to be winning the race. Incompetence and status quo averages are held up as all we can now expect, and the tragedy is that more and more people have virtually agreed. *Why worry over the small detail? Why bother with the genuine now that the artificial looks so real? If the public buys it, why worry?*

To make it painfully plain, *why think clearly since most people want someone else to think for them? Why live differently in a society where it's so much easier to look the same and follow the crowd? Why fight fiercely when so few seem to care? Why stand courageously if it means risking ridicule, misunderstanding, or being considered a dreamer by some and a fool by others?*

*Why, indeed?* To quote King David (the shepherd boy who wrote psalm 23 among others), **"Is there not a cause?"** (1 Samuel 17:28-30). *Must we wait for someone else to establish our standard or to set our pace? Are we going to settle for others to dictate our lives without thinking and enquiring whether life is worth living? What is right, truth and a sense of morality, faith and ethical living?* Absolutely not! On the contrary, it is my firm conviction and belief that those who impact, influence and reshape the world are the ones committed to living above the level of mediocrity. There are still too many opportunities for excellence, too much demand for uniqueness, to be satisfied with just getting by and settle for less.

Excellence is a difficult concept to communicate because it can easily be misread as neurotic perfectionism or snobbish sophistication. But it is neither. On the contrary, it is the substance of which greatness is made. It is the difference between just getting by and soaring, that which sets apart the significant from the superficial, the lasting from the temporary, the mundane from the meaningful, the impermanent from the eternal.

A commitment to excellence is neither popular nor easy. But it is essential. Excellence in integrity and morality as well as ethics and scholarship. Excellence in physical fitness and spiritual fervour just as much as excellence in relationships, workmanship and professionalism.

Let me illustrate the point: As most of you know, the name *Stradivarius* is synonymous with fine violins. This is true because *Antonius Stradivarius* insisted that no instrument constructed in his shop be sold until it was as near perfection as human care and skill could make it.

Stradivarius observed, **"God needs violins to send His music into the world, and if any violins are defective God's music will be spoiled."** His work philosophy was summed up in one sentence: **"Other men will make other violins, but no man shall make a better one."**

Likewise, in a world where minds and lives are being squeezed into a mediocrity mould which settles for averageness and the blind but erroneous acceptance that, we are okay and have it all. Let us break from this false and dangerous thinking and seek for excellence. Let us start using our minds to think the right things for the right reason. In the words of the apostle Paul who said:

***"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you."*** (Philippians 4:8-9)

Let me encourage you to seek the best you can be and to let God, through Jesus, fulfil His good and perfect purposes for your life. He is after all, the **'Perfect One,'** who in the final analysis does appraise our excellence.

Wishing you and yours every blessing,

Benjamin  
(Minister)





There has been great progress on the building for the future project since the last issue of the Bulletin. As at the end of July when editing this issue of the Blackhall Bulletin begins, we can say that we have made a tremendous start to the fundraising campaign, which has reached a total of £1,033,417.

As is well known, no permissions will be given until all the necessary funding has been secured but we can now be pretty confident of raising the amount needed for phase 1 quite soon and we hope that this excellent start will encourage others to give us their support as well. At the launch meeting, the Treasurer has stressed that donations of any size, whether made by one-off payments, standing orders (which can be monthly over a period of up to 5 years) pledges of annual payments or, indeed, in any other form will be very much appreciated. All donations will be acknowledged and only the treasurer himself and the gift aid convener will know how much any individual has given or pledged.

In essence, we need £1.1 million for phase 1 and the same again for phase 2. Phase 1 will include everything to do with the Sanctuary including new doors from Queensferry and Columba Roads, new heating, lighting, electrics, sound system and so on.

It was always going to be necessary to phase the project, not just for financial reasons but because we will have to use the large hall for worship during the time when the Sanctuary is out of commission. However, as soon as the full amount of funding has been secured for phase 1, we will continue the process to build up funds for Phase 2. Ideally, this would allow us to start work on phase 2 as soon as phase 1 is completed but that is still some way into the future.

With all this in mind, work has been continuing behind the scenes; indeed, it has been gathering pace. Members of the Steering Group have met with the architect to refine the original brief. This led to further meetings with the architect, structural engineer and services engineer and work has now begun on more detailed surveys for phase 1. These are needed in order to move on to the next stage of the design and development process, which will enable us to apply for approval in principle from the Church and from the local authority planning department.

We have also embarked on more detailed planning as to how to move things forward in practical terms. It is a big undertaking with a number of different aspects to it and we are very fortunate indeed that Fay Stirling, within just a few weeks of retiring from professional involvement in project management, has agreed to take on this particular project and she will be working very closely with Jim Bishop, the Fabric Convener, who is heading the team.

There are many variables in the programme that will affect when we can start and how long it will take. Some of these are in our own hands, such as the fund raising, but we will have little control over the process of getting permissions from the various bodies involved. That said, the architect's current indicative programme would envisage work possibly starting on site in April 2019 with a view to it being completed by Christmas that year.

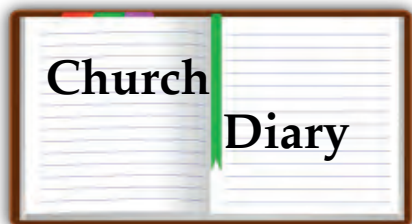
There is a long way to go before we can be sure that that timetable might be met but it is exciting that so much is actually happening and with the help of the whole congregation and others involved with Blackhall St Columba's it is not unrealistic.

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## SEPTEMBER

2 <sup>nd</sup>	9.30 am	Early Family Service
	11.00 am	Morning Worship
5 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Midweek service followed by light lunch
9 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Morning Worship
16 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Service of Thanksgiving with Rev Mary Morrison
19 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Midweek service followed by light lunch
23 <sup>rd</sup>	11.00 am	Morning Worship
25 <sup>th</sup>	4.00 pm	Service at Strachan House
30 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Morning Worship with Short Communion

## OCTOBER

3 <sup>rd</sup>	12 noon	Midweek service followed by light lunch
7 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	<b>All Age Harvest Thanksgiving</b>
14 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Stewardship Sunday
17 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Midweek service followed by light lunch
21 <sup>st</sup>	11.00 am	Morning Worship
28 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	<i>Sacrament of The Lord's Supper</i>
28 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	<i>Sacrament of The Lord's Supper</i>
30 <sup>th</sup>	4.00 pm	Service at Strachan House
31 <sup>st</sup>	12 noon	Midweek service followed by light lunch

## NOVEMBER

4 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Early Family Service
	11.00 am	Morning Worship
11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>10.50 am</b>	Remembrance Sunday
14 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Midweek service followed by light lunch
18 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Morning Worship
25 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Morning Worship followed by short Communion
27 <sup>th</sup>	4.00 pm	Service at Strachan House
28 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Midweek service followed by light lunch

## Flowers in Church August

This month the flowers were donated as follows:-

5 <sup>th</sup>	In memory of Bob and Margaret Scott
12 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Elaine Walker
19 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Anne Anderson
26 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Joan Welsh

Miss Susan Scrimgeour and Mrs Billy McKinnel delivered the flowers.

Violet Troup  
(Flower Convener)



## Sunday Club

After a successful Promotion Service in June, the children had fun and games to round off last term. Sunday Club will start back after the summer break on September 9 and runs most weeks during term time from 10.50 am to 12.00 noon.

Our programme aims to teach the children about events and stories from the Bible, through play and in an age appropriate, fun and creative way. This is through craft projects, songs and the occasional dramatic performance.

Age groups:

Ramblers - Pre school

Explorers - P1, P2 & P3

Navigators- P4, P5 & P6

There is also a crèche available for children under 3.

If you would like to find out more, contact Lorna Rogers ([lornajrogers@hotmail.com](mailto:lornajrogers@hotmail.com)) or one of the Sunday Club leaders.



## Prayer Corner

***How much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him. Matthew 7 v11***

There are those who are afraid to pray to God because they do not feel that they are sufficiently artful to win His approval. They may fear saying something wrong or ask for something that would displease Him. God's love for you changes your attitude towards everything. As you pray, talk and listen to Him. It is an astounding thing indeed when God's wisdom finally makes sense to you. Most of the time we pray and do whatever, in the measure of faith as it is at that moment in our lives. It can fluctuate from day to day.

*Thank you father for the Holy Spirit, our anchor holding us fast and bringing us back to the truth that we always need to be aware of and see.*

***The eyes of the Lord are towards the righteous and His ears are open to their cry. Psalm 34 v 15***

God delights in hearing our prayers. He tenderly contemplates the desires of our hearts and lovingly arranges for how they are fulfilled. Prayer is the greatest power in the Kingdom of God.

*Dear Father, through your precious gift of Jesus to us, thank you for hearing our prayers. Whether your answer is yes, no or wait, we know you are providing the very best for us. Amen*  
DM

## MIDWEEK SERVICES

We restart on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018. Do spread the word and encourage others to come along. We hold a short service in the Small Hall of the Church taken by a variety of excellent interesting speakers. This is followed by lunch of homemade soup and home baking, every fortnight until Christmas and then from January until mid May. Everyone welcome – no age limit. It is a relaxed atmosphere with lots of chat.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank those who have served on the rotas over the years and who are retiring. Some people have been doing this since these lunches started so a well-earned retirement is due.

Hope you all enjoyed the summer!

Elspeth Williamson, 336 2600  
[elspethwilliamson@gmail.com](mailto:elspethwilliamson@gmail.com)



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Tom Scott, Rural Landscape, sold for £1,100



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## WA†CH COMMITTEE

This year the WA†CH Committee are supporting Alzheimer Scotland based at The Prentice Centre at Granton Mains Avenue, Edinburgh EH4. (Scottish Charity no. SC022315)

They provide a service for individuals who have had a diagnosis for dementia and their families and carers. They offer information and advice, family outreach support, carer support and education, day centre opportunities, befriending and community activities.

The charity receives government and local authority funding but relies on the support of other organisations to continue its work. All we raise will be donated to the charity and it is expected that this will be used to provide training for volunteers.

The Committee started the fundraising with the Summer Coin Collection which was really well supported by the congregation during July and August. We are holding the Craft Coffee Morning on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October which provides an opportunity to view and purchase examples of craft work while enjoying a cup of coffee or tea with home baking. Our main event will be the popular Christmas Fair on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 2 pm. Please note that a planning meeting for all involved in the organisation of this event will be held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30 pm. This is a week later than originally indicated.

### Dates for your diary

- **Christmas Fair Planning Meeting** for Organisation representatives only on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30 pm in the Upper Hall
- **Craft Coffee Morning** on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October from 10 am to 12 noon
- **Christmas Fair** on Saturday 1st December at 2 pm

The WA†CH Committee very much appreciates the magnificent support given by the Blackhall St Columba's congregation and the local community over the last 26 years, raising over £250,000 for local charities and we hope that you will continue to support us this year.

George Millar, WA†CH Committee Convener



Blackhall St Columba's Church  
WATCH Committee

***Craft Coffee Morning***

Coffee / Tea  
buy hand-made goods

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October**  
10 am - 12 noon

**in Blackhall St Columba's Church Hall**

Adults - £3 Children (over 5) - £1

All Proceeds to  
**Alzheimer Scotland**  
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## YOUTH FELLOWSHIP REUNION SUNDAY 16<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER

Blackhall once had a flourishing Youth Fellowship. It began in 1947 with the encouragement of Rev James G. Matheson and the first full session was 1948-49. The tenth, twenty-first and fortieth anniversaries were celebrated and some are still around to celebrate the seventieth! Plans are underway with the goodwill of our present minister, Rev Benjamin Abeledo, to have a church service at 11 a.m. on 16<sup>th</sup> September, followed by lunch in the Holiday Inn, in the "events suite", so that there we can reminisce, look at photos etc., no doubt with much laughter, but without disturbing other guests! It is hoped also by then to have a book available about the Youth Fellowship with contributions from members near and far.

Some original members are still in the congregation with others from across the years. If you know anyone who was ever in the Youth Fellowship who would like to come, please make the event known and ask them to contact me on: [houseohill7@outlook.com](mailto:houseohill7@outlook.com)

Mary Morrison

# CAMEO CLUB



On 25<sup>th</sup> May around 30 members and helpers went to our favourite restaurant in Pettycur Bay, Kinghorn. It was a lovely sunny day and lunch was a happy event. Transport this year was by mini bus supplied by PEP (Pilton Equalities Project) as our previous mobility coach is no longer available. Since then we have enjoyed a superb concert from Quern, heard wonderful music from three talented Edinburgh Academy pupils accompanied by Angus Tully, a games morning and a young singer Sarah Laing who, unusually, is a fan of Doris Day! We are now looking forward to our coffee morning at the Capital Hotel on 3<sup>rd</sup> August. Following this we have an exciting programme of entertainers to take us up to Christmas.

## **HOT NEWS: CAMEO is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on 28<sup>th</sup> September !**

We are planning a party with Jennie Logan entertaining and hopefully many of the original organisers and helpers attending. Anyone with connections to CAMEO is welcome to join us for this special day.

We are always happy to welcome new members and volunteers willing to transport members or help with serving teas. Meanwhile, grateful thanks to all our present helpers.

Eleanor Lowrie

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## Blackhall St. Columba's Art Club

We had a lot of positive feedback from the 300+ visitors who came to our Annual Art Exhibition in May and there was wide praise for the high standard of works on show. Almost all the cards were sold and 30 framed and unframed paintings found buyers which enabled us to send a cheque for £880 to the Edinburgh and Lothian Branch of Down's Syndrome Scotland, our chosen charity this year.

Our next exhibition will be a small one at Blackhall Library from Saturday 15th December until Saturday 12th January and we hope that you will find time to pop in and maybe find an unique Christmas present or treat yourself to one!

The new 2018/19 session kicks off on the week beginning 10th September with a choice of classes in the morning on Mondays or Tuesdays. If you are a terrified beginner or a more experienced amateur and would like to join us, please do get in touch with our membership Secretary Anne McLennan on 336 4326 or [annemclennan@gmail.com](mailto:annemclennan@gmail.com) who will advise you on the current vacancy situation.

We continue to update our noticeboard in the Church Hall, on the Art Club section of the Church website and on our Facebook page, so please do have a peak at these.

## North West Heritage

Meetings are held in Davidson's Mains Parish Church start at 7.30 pm; those held in St Columba's Parish Church start at 7.45 pm.

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September at Davidson's Mains Parish Church. Talk 'The Caledonian Railway in Edinburgh' which journeys from Caledonian Princes Street Station, Davidson's Mains, Barnton, Granton and on to Ocean Terminal. Speaker Ken Williamson.

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October in St. Columba's Parish Church Hall. Talk "The Royal Company of Archers, the Queen's Bodyguard in Scotland" with Lt. Col. Richard Callander.

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November in Davidson's Mains Parish Church North Hall. Talk "The Davidsons of Davidson's Mains" with Bill Weir. This is another talk in the series of the Mansion Houses of Cramond Parish.

## Tuesday Topics

The new session of Tuesday Topics starts on 25<sup>th</sup> September in the Small Hall of Blackhall St Columba's Church. We have another interesting, informative and fun programme of topics for our members and visitors

Our group is non-denominational for women of all ages, with visitors, women and men, always welcome. We meet on alternate Tuesdays from late September to April starting at 7.30pm with our speaker, followed by tea or coffee and a chat. Our programme also includes a post-Christmas meal out, a theatre outing and finishes with an outing.

On 25<sup>th</sup> September Dr Louise Williams, Archivist at the Lothian Health Service, will be "Celebrating the History of Health in Edinburgh"; this year is the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Western General as well as the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NHS. On 5<sup>th</sup> October Christine Murdie's topic is 'Wildlife around Edinburgh and beyond'. On 23<sup>rd</sup> October Dr Karen Pearson will tell us 'The story of Genetics – past, present and future'. November 6<sup>th</sup> is our charity evening when we will learn about 'Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance'. On November 20<sup>th</sup> we will be pleased to welcome our Edinburgh Western MSP Alex Cole-Hamilton, whose talk is entitled 'Behind the scenes as an MSP'. On our last meeting before Christmas, 4<sup>th</sup> December, we will be entertained by favourites Amy Donaldson and her group Quern 'In Concert'.

We look forward to welcoming our existing members and any new members. Membership costs £15 for the year or visitors may pay £2 per visit. For further information please contact: Jacky Cowie, Secretary 332 1066 or Eleanor Lowrie, President 332 4827



## Badminton Club



The Badminton Club is always pleased to welcome new players who can come along as a visitor to see if the club suits them. We have two sections. The evening section which plays on Wednesdays from 8 pm to 10.15pm and the morning section which plays on Thursdays from 9.30 am until 12 midday.

For further information please email me, Linda Finnie at [lindafinnie@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lindafinnie@hotmail.co.uk)



## Blackhall Community Trust Update Autumn 2018

We are delighted to report that steady progress is being made with our plans to create new spaces for Blackhall Nursery and for the community within a revitalised Ravelston Park Pavilion.

The community consultation earlier this year overwhelmingly supported a new build; after much testing of options, we now have a footprint and a preferred site for the new build, primarily on the site of the existing building. We will share the preliminary design for this again at our October public meeting (details below).

In the meantime, we will be finalising our Business Plan, submitting our Community Asset Transfer Stage 2 application to the City of Edinburgh Council, applying for Planning Permission in Principle and completing our application for funds to acquire Ravelston Park Pavilion and adjacent land for the new build.

The activities we offer to local residents continue to go from strength to strength (see below for the dates of our coffee mornings, our walks and our book club). We are always pleased to welcome anyone who would like to join us.

Our membership continues to grow – thank you to those who have shown support by becoming members. If you would like to join, look out for our newsletter and application form or email [blackhallcommunitytrust@gmail.com](mailto:blackhallcommunitytrust@gmail.com). Or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Oct 7.30pm, Blackhall St Columba's:** Public Meeting – all welcome!

**The first Thursday of every month** - Walking Group (in the morning) and Book Group (in the evening) – please email us for details.

**The last Thursday of every month** – Coffee Morning 10-11.30am, Blackhall Cloudberry, Queensferry Rd – look out for posters to confirm the dates or email us.

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# Knit and Natter

Unbelievably we have just come to the end of our third year and looking forward to many more. We wish we had kept a record of everything we have made from the outset. For interest we recorded our donations since January this year and this is what we have made. It was as follows:

4 blankets for Fresh Start. And to our two early years centres 4 pairs mitts, 21 hats, 1 scarf, 39 jumpers and cardigans, 18 knitted toys, 9 dolls outfits and 12 baby blankets!

We do enjoy our natter over coffee and biscuits too. So, if you would like to join us in September you would be most welcome. Whether a seasoned knitter or a new knitter, the more the merrier. Further details from Lilian Cockburn [stcknitnnatter@gmail.com](mailto:stcknitnnatter@gmail.com) or the hall notice board.





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## St Columba's Scottish Country Dancing

We do hope all our members have had an enjoyable and relaxing summer. The weather has been glorious and now it's time to look forward to the autumn/winter activities.

The Scottish Country Dance class will resume on Thursday 20 September at 7.30 pm in the large hall of St Columba's Church. We will be delighted to welcome new ladies and gentlemen and, of course, look forward to seeing our regular members. The fees are £16 per term or £4 per night. Excellent value with a cuppa and biscuit at half-time!

Margaret Brown  
332 5957

## Fellowship Afternoon Group

The new session of the Fellowship Afternoon Group starts on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September when Alison Bardgett will entertain us with Scottish songs and music.

Our monthly meetings are held in the small hall at Blackhall St Columba's and start at 2.15pm. Refreshments are available at the end of the meetings. We are a community group and welcome both ladies and gentlemen.

To cover costs we charge £5 for our syllabus payable at the first meeting with a charge of £2 per meeting for visitors.

We look forward to welcoming back our previous members as well as hopefully meeting some new faces. Do come along and join us – you will be very welcome.

EH

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## FAIRTRADE STALL

This is held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month all year round at coffee after the morning service. The next dates are Sept 9<sup>th</sup>, Oct 14<sup>th</sup>, and Nov 11<sup>th</sup>.

Come along to see the food we sell. We also have catalogues you can take away and browse through to find great gifts. If you miss the stall you can put in a special order anytime and the goods arrive within a few days. There are a huge variety of items from jewellery, clothing, bric a brac and toys as well as the food we sell regularly.

Traidcraft is a charitable organisation which helps the producers of all sorts of goods throughout the world participate in a fair market. By shopping at our stall: *You walk hand in hand with farmers to help them trade their way out of poverty.*

*You connect directly with smaller, more remote, more marginalised communities.*

*You support supply chains that value and respect the people and places that are part of them.*

*You support a socially responsible business that puts people before profit.*

We do not sell cheap food as the price reflects the costs to the third world producers. Supermarkets do sell the same goods and usually at a lower price, which can be because, they buy in bulk. However their profits are also a factor. We are a not for profit organisation. If we have surplus funds we donate to Traidcraft Exchange, which is the charity run by Traidcraft plc giving special assistance to poorer producers. Please do support the stall at Blackhall St Columba's.

Any enquiries to Elspeth Williamson –  
[elspethwilliamson@gmail.com](mailto:elspethwilliamson@gmail.com)



## FRESH START

Our Friday morning collection of small household items restarts on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September when there will be someone in the halls between 10am and 12noon to receive any donations. If you have a large amount, you may find it easier to take it directly to the Fresh Start warehouse at 22-24 Ferry Road Drive, which is open Monday to Friday 9am-4pm. Due to space, Fresh Start can only accept items on their list, a copy of which is in the hall corridor or on their website, details below. They are unable to take fixings, as many landlords do not allow items to be attached by tenants.

Fresh Start shared thanks received from someone who had put in a referral for a single mother who was moving from temporary to permanent accommodation.

*"...when we phoned her to let her know what she had been given from Fresh Start – she was absolutely overwhelmed.*

*She literally packed one bag from her temporary accommodation and then moved into her tenancy with us.*

*Thank you so much you really have made a difference to this tenant's life."*

To find out more about Fresh Start, their services and volunteering opportunities please visit their website at <http://www.freshstartweb.org.uk/>



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# Blackhall Guiding

All Units have had an exciting time over the summer term from a fun trip to Edinburgh Zoo with all the Brownies, Roller Discos, showing off talents in Talent Shows, Horse Riding, Raising money for charity, Sailing, gaining lots of badges and making the most of the beautiful weather with lots of outdoor fun in Ravelston Woods.



202 Rainbows had an exciting summer term completing their Rainbow Roundabout Seasons badge, they then had fun seeing rabbits and a Bearded Dragon at Pets at Home and for the end of term they joined with Murrayfield Rainbows for a joint picnic and games night. **Nicola - 202 Leader**



202 and 202B Brownies had a fantastic summer term. They started off with a trip to the Scottish parliament to get a tour and talk from our local MSP Alex Cole-Hamilton. They also enjoyed Horse Riding and a Sausage Sizzle in the woods to celebrate the end of term. They are looking forward to a sleepover in the Blackpool Ballroom tower in September. **Nicole - 202 and 202B Leader**



157/157A Guides have had a busy term learning everything from budgeting to how to create and cook on a campfire. One of the highlights of the year was their production and performance of our Guides Got Talent show, which included fantastic skits, singing and dancing **Chelsie - 157A Leader**



***Volunteers are needed to help at Rainbow, Brownie and Guide units at Blackhall St.Columba's***

What we want from you?

- Able to spare 1-2 hours a week during term time.
- Willing to complete a DBS check (paid for by Girlguiding)
- Enthusiasm for volunteering with children

What's in it for you?

- Great CV experience and potential for references
- Opportunities to complete qualifications including first aid
- Opportunities to go on trips and try new things
- A chance to meet new people
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Contact [GGUKBlackhallDistrict@outlook.com](mailto:GGUKBlackhallDistrict@outlook.com)  
for more information





# BLACKHALL NURSERY NEWS

## AUTUMN TERM



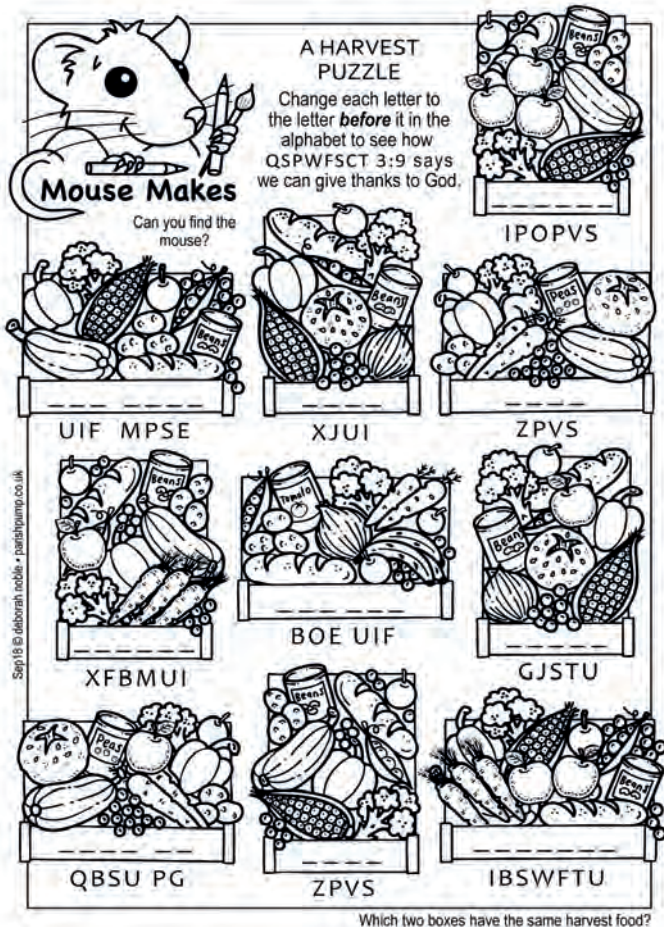
Blackhall Nursery is situated within the wonderful nature resource of Ravelston Park and Woods. At Blackhall Nursery, we put the children at the heart of everything we do. We provide a safe, healthy and happy environment where children grow and develop through play and active learning.

The past few weeks have seen the children settling into the new routines of Nursery and building new friendships. As always, our focus is on learning through play and we will be listening to and consulting with the children to ensure that learning experiences are built around their current interests.

We are very proud of our long-standing commitment to the Eco Schools Scotland programme and to have been awarded five Green Flags over the years. Taking care of the environment is embedded in our curriculum and our new children in Nursery are learning the words to our Eco Song that helps them understand what tasks they can do on Fridays for our 'Eco jobs', such as, recycling, composting, watering the plants and feeding the birds. This term the children will give their views about their Nursery by drawing pictures for our 'Let's talk about our Nursery' evaluation floorbook. We are also looking forward to our Woodland Walks in Ravelston Woods where the children will be able to explore the great outdoors and begin observing the changes that occur in nature throughout the year.

Blackhall Nursery is a registered Scottish charity working in partnership with the City of Edinburgh Council. We offer places in morning and afternoon classes, providing sessions of 3 hours 10 minutes for 3-5 year olds during term time. We are a feeder nursery for Blackhall Primary School and **all places are free and funded by the City of Edinburgh Council**. We are currently working with the City of Edinburgh Council as part of a pilot scheme to deliver 1140 hours of free early learning and childcare (up to six hours a day, term time only). The nature of this pilot scheme means that the Nursery will only be able to offer these extended hours to a small number of children.

You can place your child's name on the Nursery waiting list from their 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday by downloading an application form at [www.blackhallnursery.co.uk](http://www.blackhallnursery.co.uk) or by contacting the Nursery for an application form on 0131 332 8296.



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# BLACKHALL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Many thanks to staff and pupils of Primaries 1, 6 and 7 who have sent in contributions for this issue of the Blackhall Bulletin.

## P6 Tetrahedron Challenge

Some civil engineers came to do a workshop with us to inspire us for this career choice and we made a 4 metre high tetrahedron out of rubber bands and wooden sticks. First we made little tetrahedrons then we put 4 of them together to make a medium size before adding them all together to make a giant one. We learned that civil engineers help to design and make buildings, roads and other structures that help other people. We had to listen to others and use teamwork to get the job done. And if it fell apart we had to use teamwork again to put it back together. Doing this task helped us to understand more about building and designing. We also learned more detail about what a civil engineer actually does. We got to ask the leaders lots of questions at the end which was cool and we found out we could go on and on with the structure forever until the end of gravity when things become more complicated.

David and Sergio P6M



## P6 Flower Art

On Wednesday afternoons P6M have been working on pictures of flowers using different artistic techniques and skills. The different styles of art we used were: wool weaving to make the flower, quilling to make the leaves, paper weaving to make the basket and clay modelling to make the bees / ladybugs. Maryam thought the hardest part was the wool weaving because it was easy to make a mistake so you would have to start again if you did. All of the styles of art were challenging but enjoyable and the pictures seemed to come together to look amazing!

By Amelia and Hannah



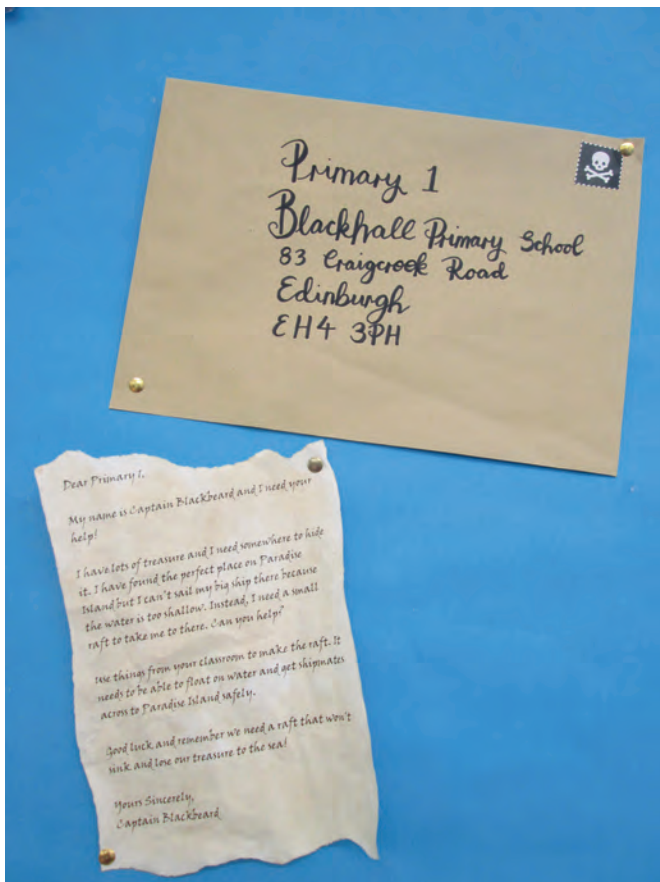
# BLACKHALL PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Mystery at Magpie Manor Review

On Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup> and Thursday the 14<sup>th</sup> of June 2018, the Primary Sevens of Blackhall Primary School performed in a production of 'Mystery at Magpie Manor' at St. Columba's Church Hall. It was a breath taking performance and left the audience with goose bumps.

The show was set in the 1920s, when the Charleston, flapper dresses and famous guests like Winston Churchill, Charlie Chaplin and many more were around.

The singing and dancing was outstanding, "the best P7 show yet," stated by Ms Finlay - former head teacher of Blackhall Primary. The storyline of Mystery at Magpie Manor is based on a family that has a lot of financial difficulty and hold a grand auction ball to sell the 'Pica-Pica Solid Silver Pitcher with the Magpie Picture', which is worth £30,000 pounds! The two comical characters, Scribble and Blot, guard the pitcher. But are they really the best people for the job? Only time will tell...



### Primary 1 Pirates



**P1 have been learning about pirates this term.** We had a very exciting visit from a pirate, Captain Blackbeard, who delivered a mysterious letter containing a science challenge. We had to help him solve his problem, which was to help him get his crew to shore by raft. We explored properties of materials and tested our boats in the water tray.





# CRAIGLEITH MEN'S PROBUS CLUB



After a summer of heat and thunder, Craigleith Probus are looking forward to their series of winter talks, and the relative peace and quiet of meeting up with friends, new and old, over a cup of tea or coffee before hearing one of the numerous interesting themes planned. As a group we are recognised within Probus circles as being inclusive with the only criteria being a retired male - no need to be an ex banker or lawyer to be in this Probus!

We start our session on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October when we welcome Eric Melvin who will tell us about 'The Edinburgh of Burke and Hare'. These two gentlemen perhaps receive a bad press for just undertaking what was then common practice of grave robbing and so 'to be sure' Eric will tell us the full story! Maintaining the theme of life in Edinburgh we will hear all about Edinburgh's history of brewing from John Martin in his talk 'Capital Brewing'. The date for your diary is October 17<sup>th</sup>. Our final talk, which focuses on Edinburgh, is on 7<sup>th</sup> November with Aileen Orr explaining the story of Wotjek the Bear. We were very disappointed when due to last winter's snow Aileen was unable to drive from Duns. Aileen will be concentrating on the memorial within Princes Street Gardens and how it was funded as well as of course Wotjek's history of being a corporal in the Polish army and his life after WW2 in Edinburgh Zoo which will be highlighted.

Our talk planned for 21<sup>st</sup> November on the history of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Gravestones has nothing to do with Burke and Hare but deals with many of the interesting details on such stones: 'Angels and Hammermen' is how Allan Tulloch describes his talk. As we will find out there is much history as well as local heritage to be found in examining gravestones or even visiting the numerous old graveyards around Edinburgh.

At the start of December a retired 'paramedic', Neil Proven, will be visiting us and will explain the work of a Paramedic. This talk is one of our charity events and is in aid of The Community Heartbeat Trust who assists in the provision of defibrillators. In many communities these are to be found in various locations such as pubs, and disused phone boxes. As at all our meetings visitors are always welcome and if you have a particular interest in this theme please just pop along. The willingness of Neil to become involved at times of crisis was shown when recently, at a lunch time meal in Frederick Street, he was happy to intervene when a diner in the restaurant collapsed. We finished our meal while Neil sat elsewhere with the patient, who is now in full health thanks to him!

I hope these odd musings have encouraged you to come along to Craigleith Probus. We meet at Blackhall Bowling Club, just off Craigcrook Road and close to Café Citron, at 10am, on the first and third Wednesdays of the month, for coffee/tea plus biscuits with the talk starting at 10.30am.

For more information please just email me, John MacLennan, [johnmaclellanuk@gmail.com](mailto:johnmaclellanuk@gmail.com) or [infocpc21@gmail.com](mailto:infocpc21@gmail.com) John MacLennan: Speakers Secretary

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## LOCAL A CAPPELLA CHORUS WOW HARROGATE

Following their highly successful Fringe 2018 show "From Monks to Boy Bands" the Rolling Hills Chorus are thrilled to have improved on their 2016 success at the British Association of Barbershop Singers Convention at Harrogate. They wowed the audience with their romantic interpretation of the 50's ballad "London By Night" and the energetic swing tune "Just In Time". The a cappella group, based in Clermiston, came 14th against fierce competition from 35 of the best barbershop groups from all over the UK. Musical Director Rosalind Johnson said "I am absolutely thrilled with our success at the convention and I can't wait to see what the future holds for the chorus. The guys work so hard and have so much fun in the process that our improvement is real vindication for the work we have put in to become the best singers we can be over the past 18 months, and this result is a great indicator of that." The chorus has various engagements closer to home over the next few months including their annual "Learn to Sing" course for budding harmony singers in January 2019. They will also be polishing up their popular Christmas repertoire for this year's carol concerts in December as well as preparing for their 2019 Fringe production...Watch this space!

**The chorus is open to new members at all times of the year. We would love to hear from any men who are keen to learn how to sing in harmony. Please check our website at [rollinghills.org.uk/](http://rollinghills.org.uk/)**

For further information please contact:

Chorus Chairman, Ian McLean – Tel: 0131 332 0153 email: [ijmclean@hotmail.com](mailto:ijmclean@hotmail.com)

Chorus Musical, Director Rosalind Johnson -

Tel: 07730880625 email: [rosalindchloejohnson@gmail.com](mailto:rosalindchloejohnson@gmail.com)

## The Power of Social Media

I have never been a fan of social media. At best it can be a real time waster and at worst it can be a cause of great distress. However, recently my attitude changed slightly. My son received a message on Messenger asking if his mother had corresponded with a Daphne Harold in St Vincent in the West Indies. I remembered Daphne well. From the age of 11 years she was my pen-pal. I think this was arranged through my primary school teacher. We corresponded for many years but somehow lost touch after my first son was born. Daphne has been living in New York for 42 years and was coming to Britain to visit her son and brother. She flew up to Edinburgh for a brief visit to meet us. We took her to South Queensferry to view the bridges and a tour of Edinburgh by car. Unfortunately the Queen was hosting her Garden Party that day so we were unable to visit Holyrood as planned!

It was amazing to meet each other after 60 years and we are looking forward to continuing our correspondence but this time mainly via e-mail and messenger rather than airmail letters!

Eleanor Lowrie



Jim and Eleanor Lowrie with Daphne Harold Warner



# BLACKHALL PROBUS CLUB



We welcome retired PROfessional and BUSiness men who would like to join us to come along for social chats over coffee/tea/biscuits and listen to a series of illustrated talks given by experts in their subject field. We meet at The Blackhall Bowling Club, Keith Row at 10am on the first and third Thursdays of the month from October through to April. Meetings normally conclude around 12 noon. Our first meeting and talk of the 2018-2019 session will be on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October

The following talks have been arranged but the dates have to be finalised

- Hinkler's 1928 Solo Flight to Australia
- The Rise and Fall of Aerial Photography
- The Royal Observatory Edinburgh, Past, Present and Future
- The Scottish Caribbean Historical Connection
- The Scottish Mining Museum
- Woods & Trees and the Work of the Woodland Trust
- Cramond - Its Employment and Industry
- Destination Forth - WW1 - The Last Act and Beyond
- Chiropractic Care
- Whisky (which may well include tasting a few samples!)

We also organise a Christmas Lunch, Spring Lunch and a Summer outing to which partners are invited.

We have enjoyed a varied programme of talks since the last Bulletin. On our final talk of last season, which was also attended by partners, was titled "Golden America – Chicago to Yellowstone" illustrating the experiences and sights on a car journey from Chicago to Yellowstone. Following the talk, we enjoyed a splendid Spring Lunch at The Royal Burgess Golfing Society.

Our Summer outing was to the Pitlochry Festival Theatre to see Chicago, set in the Roaring 20s Jazz Age. PFT's production was spectacular with lots of pizzazz, singing and dancing from a multi-talented cast of 16 featuring a live band. A most entertaining way to spend the afternoon after a pleasant lunch set against a backdrop of the rolling Perthshire hills.

So please join us on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October at 10am in The Blackhall Bowling Club for our social chit chat and formal talk, or alternatively, contact the Secretary for more details and to receive a copy of our interesting and varied 2018 – 2019 syllabus.

Neil McIntosh, Secretary, Blackhall PROBUS Club.  
Phone: 0131 312 6164 Email: [neil.mcintosh@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:neil.mcintosh@blueyonder.co.uk)  
27 Hillpark Way, Edinburgh, EH4 7ST.

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## Remembrance 100: Silence – a gift book for Remembrance

A commemorative booklet called *Silence* has been produced for churches to give away at Remembrance events this November. *Silence* includes many of the familiar Remembrance epitaphs, poems and exhortations and aims to help all those attending Remembrance services to engage with God in the two minutes silence.

On Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018, people around the Commonwealth will observe Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day to mark the centenary of the end of World War I.

Roy Crowne, HOPE's executive director, says: 'As well as reflecting on loss, this year also gives us the chance to look forward as we mark the end of World War I and pray for peace.'

We have set up Remembrance 100 in partnership with others, to help churches bring communities together to mark this significant point in our history.'

Many organisations are working together to provide Remembrance 100 resources for local churches and communities. These include the Armed Forces Christian Union, Bible Society, Christian Vision for Men, Church of England, Churches Together in England, Deo Gloria Trust, HOPE, Lifewords, the Methodist Church in Britain, the Peace Alliance, the United Reformed Church, Scripture Union, Sports Chaplaincy UK, and the World Prayer Centre. For more information visit [www.hopetogether.org.uk/remembrance](http://www.hopetogether.org.uk/remembrance) or [www.remembrance100.co.uk](http://www.remembrance100.co.uk)





## THE WAY I SEE IT: What is 'health'?

Canon David Winter considers what it is to be healthy



This summer we've been celebrating the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Health Service. I can recall, years ago, my GP pointing out that it was the National *Health* Service, not the National *Illness* Service. This was when our local practice changed its name from 'Medical Centre' to 'Health Centre'. It seems a pedantic point, but in fact it touches on a huge issue - What is 'health'?

In the Gospels the healing miracles of Jesus are sometimes called 'cures' and sometimes 'making well or whole'. These are attempts by the translators to convey a difference in the nature of what had happened. People who had 'conditions' (blind, lame, infirm) were 'cured'. Those with serious illness were often said to be 'made whole'. When Jesus was faced with ten people with leprosy, nine were described as 'cured' and one - the Samaritan who came back in gratitude, was 'made whole' (Luke 17:19). So was the woman with a long-term haemorrhage, who touched the hem of the Lord's garment: 'your faith has made you whole (well)' (Luke 8:45).

This suggests that 'health' is more than being free of sickness. Indeed, it seems to imply that health relates to *our whole life experience* - to be truly healthy, we are 'well' mentally, physically and spiritually. I think I would go further: I have ministered to people who were desperately ill but in the deepest sense of the word radiantly 'healthy'. That may sound odd, but just as 'peace' is not simply the absence of war, so 'health' is not just the absence of illness. I suspect many of those working in the NHS know the truth of that.

## What an apple might do for you

Here's some good news: an apple a day could help keep diabetes at bay, according to new health guidelines.



Yoghurt, cheese and regular cups of tea or coffee are among other food and drinks that could also help ward off the condition. But keep an eye on the meat and potatoes - they may actually increase your likelihood of diagnosis.

The dietary advice comes from Oxford University and Diabetes UK. It also suggests eating more wholegrains and fruit and vegetables.

## Keep your brain healthy

Here's an excellent reason to get regular exercise: women who are fit at 50 are five times less likely to get dementia.

A Swedish study found that middle age is the key time for people to take steps to promote their brain health. And boosting your exercise does not have to mean major exertion - just try a brief jog, or a brisk walk with friends. Doctors suggested that the best way to maintain good brain health was to eat a balanced diet, maintain a healthy weight, not smoke, and keep blood pressure and cholesterol in check.

Why not try a Sudoku to keep those brain cells working?

	3			4	8	9		2
		8		3			1	5
		5			7		8	
1	7	2	4				5	
4								8
	8				3	2	9	4
	5		8			6		
3	6			5		8		
8		4	3	7			2	

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Or take a trip to the cinema



## In the now and beyond

Ten years after the release of the original, *Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again* wonderfully takes us back to the same beautiful island and glorious sunshine. But perhaps it is the difference between the two films that is particularly powerful. The first was primarily themed around discovering one's individual identity and freedom, whereas the sequel explores the enduring nature of relationships.

This is symbolised physically in the hotel which Sophie has renovated to fulfil the vision of her mother, Donna, who has recently died. We see in flash-back the young Donna singing 'I Have a Dream' as she wanders through the original ruins, intercut with shots of Sophie's completed rooms.

It is symbolised relationally by the arrival of Sophie's estranged grandmother, who has not forgotten her family, and who herself discovers a long-lost love at the hotel.

But it is a scene in the beautiful hill-top church which most powerfully takes this theme to a whole new level - physically, relationally, and spiritually. Even Mark Kermode, the hardened film-critic says of it 'I wasn't just crying, I was convulsing with tears.' Here, the film reworks the lyrics of ABBA's little-known 'My Love, My Life' to change it from a song about ending relationships to one about their enduring nature: 'I can see it all so clearly, all I love so dearly... I know I don't possess you, with all my heart God bless you ... As one are we, in the now and beyond'.



In our culture, recently dominated by a focus on individuality and freedom, perhaps reflecting on this film, and its changes to the song's lyrics, might cause us to think again about the enduring nature of relationships. And, perhaps we may then heed some of the other reworked words: 'I see a road ahead, I never thought I would dare to tread'.

**ETHOS MEDIA**.org

EthosMedia.org provides free resources to help people explore spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues through the latest feature films.



After the driest, hottest summer for many years many people are thinking about Climate change. This extract from a leaflet from the Church of Scotland explains what the Church proposed to do. We also have a poem by one of our readers

 'The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world and those who live in it' Psalm 24.1

## Climate Change

The Responding to Climate Change Project aims to provide answers and resources to these and related topics through its work in three main areas:

- To work with the Councils of the Church to help them identify and address the impacts of climate change. This includes both practical issues such as reducing the carbon footprint of the church's own estate; raising awareness of Ministers, Presbyteries and staff; and working with partners in countries overseas through the World Mission Council to highlight the global consequences of our emissions.
- To support Eco-Congregation Scotland and help the Programme respond effectively to climate change. The ecumenical Eco-Congregation Scotland Programme now includes over 270 congregations across Scotland, from many different denominations. Eco-Congregation Scotland now form one of the largest networks of voluntary environmental groups in Scotland. More information can be found at:  
[www.ecocongregationscotland.org](http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org)  
[ecocongregationscotland.blogspot.com](http://ecocongregationscotland.blogspot.com)
- To contribute to the wider debate in Scotland, for example through our work with the Stop Climate Chaos Scotland coalition, which includes approximately 60 Scottish organisations who work on climate change issues. The Church welcomes the Climate Change (Scotland) Bill and is participating in the national debate to ensure that the commitment to an 80% reduction in greenhouse gases is taken forward across Scotland. For further details please see  
[www.stopclimatechaosscotland.org](http://www.stopclimatechaosscotland.org)



Climate change represents a failure in our stewardship of God's creation

In 2009, The General Assembly instructed Presbyteries, in association with the Church and Society Council, to produce plans for congregations in the Presbytery to measure the energy consumption and the carbon footprint of their buildings and commit to a year on year reduction of 5% in their carbon footprint, to which many congregations and Presbyteries have since responded very positively.

The Church of Scotland is concerned that climate change poses a serious and immediate threat to people everywhere, particularly to the poor of the earth; and that climate change represents a failure in our stewardship of God's creation. We accept the need to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases urgently to avoid dangerous and irreversible climate change; and to promote a more equitable and sustainable use of energy.



## Pity Mother Earth

Wake up world, take heed of Her genuine fears,  
Though expert words of caution seem to no avail,  
Any wonder Mother Nature sheds copious tears?  
As earthlings meander down global warming trail.

Though expert words of caution seem to no avail,  
To ignore changing climate surely mankind's folly?  
As earthlings meander down global warming trail,  
Our planet may shrivel and die of melancholy.

To ignore changing climate surely mankind's folly?  
Wake up world, take heed of Her genuine fears,  
Our planet may shrivel and die of melancholy,  
Any wonder Mother Nature sheds copious tears?

Irene W. Clouston



# Blackhall Horticultural Society



After a mid summer of carrying watering cans and, don't tell anyone, using a hose, to ensure our gardens are not totally brown, the 'horti' members are looking forward to recommencing their autumn and winter talks and events. Our September meeting, on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September, will be a social get together. This has been a summer to remember from a growing point with temperatures too high thus inhibiting plant growth, and over a glass of wine and ample nibbles we will share our woes plus pass on any tips gathered from the experiences of summer 2018.

As a society we always maintain links with the team at Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh with many of the staff living locally and being involved various botanical projects. In the past we have heard about The Edible Garden, Queen Mother's Memorial Garden and numerous plant collecting trips, and at our meeting on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October we will hear more of the work of our local Garden.

On 12<sup>th</sup> November we are delighted to be welcoming Gavin McNaughton of MacPlants near Pencaitland and is known for its herbaceous perennials and Meconopsis. Gavin will be telling us about Perennials for the Garden and as the modern trend is towards sustainable plantings, this theme is very apt. As Christmas approaches and thoughts of what to grow in 2019 a talk on Greenhouse Gardening is our theme on 10<sup>th</sup> December. If you have driven through Pathhead, Midlothian, the immense colour in this village is partially due to our speaker, Jim Williams, one of the mainstays of the National Vegetable Society in Scotland as well as Pathhead Horticultural Society, who co ordinates much of this colour.

As 2019 develops 'the Horti' has an interesting range of talks that include hearing about the Saughton Park Restoration Project, which hopes to return this gem of Edinburgh's rich garden history back onto the international stage. Some of this work is being undertaken by volunteers from 'the Caley' (Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society) and we are delighted to be welcoming one of their Past Presidents, Pam Whittle, on 11<sup>th</sup> March.

The 'horti' meets at 7.45pm on the second Monday of the month from September to May in the small hall at St. Columba's Church. If you would like any more information please just email us on [blackhall.horti@gmail.com](mailto:blackhall.horti@gmail.com) or look at our web page <https://e-voice.org.uk/blackhall-horticultural-society/> John MacLennan: Hon President



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## DEADLINES

### Kirk News – Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> September

Please send all items to the Editor,  
Christine Denham, c/o Church Office  
(Home tel: 336 5943) or e-mail:  
kirknews@blackhallstcolumba.org.uk

### Blackhall Bulletin- Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October

Please send all items to the Editor,  
Barbara Wilson, c/o Church Office  
(Home tel: 312 6035) or e-mail:  
bulletin@blackhallstcolumba.org.uk

### Advertising Enquiries

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Blackhall St. Columba's Church also produces a  
pack with useful information about the area -  
doctors, schools, churches, youth organisations,  
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If you would like a pack please contact the church  
office either by telephoning 0131 332 4431 or  
e-mail [secretary@blackhallstcolumba.org.uk](mailto:secretary@blackhallstcolumba.org.uk)

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